

runoff of the tear film from the eye and permitting the fluid to moisturize the aqueous layer of the tear film.

A' cont

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of the fluid is between 50 and 200% of the volume of the normal aqueous layer of the tear film.

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8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the quantity of the fluid that is administered to the eye surface is less than about 10 μ l.

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11. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluid administered has an osmolarity of less than that of the normal aqueous layer of the tear film.

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15. (Amended) A method for moisturizing the surface of the eye comprising administering to said surface of the eye between 0.5 and 20 μ l of an aqueous fluid consisting essentially of water and permitting said fluid to moisturize the aqueous layer of the tear film of said eye.

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19. (Amended) A kit for moisturizing the eye comprising a container, a fluid consisting essentially of water within said container, an actuator that delivers between 0.5 and 20 μ l of said fluid, and instructions for delivering said dose of fluid to the surface of the eye.

A5 cont

20. (Amended) The kit of claim 19 wherein the actuator delivers the fluid as a mist having an average droplet size between 5 and 150 microns in diameter.

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23. (Amended) A method for moisturizing the eye comprising administering to the surface of said eye between 0.5 and 10 μ l of an aqueous fluid wherein said fluid is in the form of a mist comprised of droplets having an average size between 5 and 150 microns and wherein the fluid has a pH less than or equal to 7.0 and an osmolarity below that of the normal tear film and permitting said fluid to moisturize the aqueous portion of the tear film of said eye.

Please add the following claims:

--24. The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous fluid is substantially free of preservatives.

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25. The method of claim 15 wherein the aqueous fluid is substantially free of preservatives.

26. The kit of claim 19 wherein the fluid is substantially free of preservatives.

27. The method of claim 23 wherein the aqueous fluid is substantially free of preservatives.

28. A method for moisturizing the aqueous layer of the tear film on the surface of the eye without washing away said aqueous layer, which method comprises administering to the surface of the eye an aqueous fluid in an amount that is sufficient to increase the volume of the aqueous layer of the tear film by at least 5% of the volume of the normal aqueous layer and which amount is less than that which causes runoff of the tear film from the eye and permitting the fluid to moisturize the aqueous layer of the tear film.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of the fluid is between 50 and 200% of the volume of the normal aqueous layer of the tear film.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the fluid is administered in the form of a mist.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the mist is composed of droplets having an average volume of about 0.1% to 1% of the volume of the normal tear film.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the mist is composed of droplets having an average size of between about 5 and 150 microns in diameter.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the average size of the droplets is between 10 and 50 microns in diameter.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the average size of the droplets is between 15 and 30 microns in diameter.

35. The method of claim 28 wherein the quantity of the fluid that is administered to the eye surface is less than about 10 μ l.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the quantity is between about 0.5 and 6 μ l.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the quantity is between about 2 and 5 μ l.

38. The method of claim 28 wherein the fluid has an osmolarity of less than that of the normal aqueous layer of the tear film.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the osmolarity is less than 311 mOsm.

40. The method of claim 28 wherein the pH of the fluid is less than 7.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the pH is about 6.5.

42. The method of claim 28 wherein the aqueous fluid consists essentially of

water.